

SITUATION REPORT NO. 51
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: June 20, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: An updated forecast, released June 18 by the National Weather Service, calls for Devils Lake to reach 1,442.5 to 1,443 feet, one-half to one foot lower than predicted on June 4. The rise of Devils Lake has slowed significantly as a result of warmer temperatures, increased evaporation and limited precipitation. Normal precipitation for June in the Devils Lake area averages 3.35 inches. However, from June 1 to June 17, only 0.52 inches of rain had been reported.

The level of Devils Lake was at 1,442.2 feet MSL on June 20.

In Ramsey County, a manhole is threatened by rising Devils Lake flood waters. If the manhole becomes inundated, Ramsey County Rural Utility System would be forced to close seven lift stations and two mini-lift stations. Approximately 300 homes would be without sewer system.

The Missouri River at Williston had dropped to 25.29 feet on June 20 after cresting two days earlier at 25.7 feet. Flood stage is 20 feet. Inflows from the Yellowstone River will continue to keep the Missouri River high for the next few weeks. At its current level, agricultural flooding occurs in the Trenton Bottoms area, and oil companies temporarily suspend pumping operations.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Members of the North Dakota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) are scheduled to meet at 11:00 a.m. June 23 at the Ramsey National Bank.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: President Clinton has notified James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), that federal share for total eligible Public Assistance costs to North Dakota will be increased from 75 percent to 90 percent. State and local shares total 10 percent. Reimbursement for debris removal and emergency protective measures remain at 100 percent of the total eligible costs.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff has decreased releases, from 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 450 cfs from the Jamestown Dam as the reservoir elevation drops. The pool elevation was at 1,438.7 feet on June 18; the reservoir crested at 1,445.9 feet last month. The USACE continues its releases of 750 cfs from the Pipestem Dam. The reservoir also crested last month at 1,487.1 feet; the pool elevation was 1,473.4 feet on June 18.

FEMA's Community Relations workers have visited more than 10,000 disaster survivors at their homes since April 7 when outreach, education and partnership building began in all 53 North Dakota counties. Staff members have made approximately 25,000 door-to-door visits to disaster-affected neighborhoods. In addition, staff members have had 300 contacts with county emergency managers, 1,000 with local officials, 250 with volunteer agencies, 1,500 visits with heads of key community organizations, and 200 with large and small employers. The program's goal is to provide information about disaster assistance available as part of the disaster recovery. The staff will concentrate outreach efforts to flood victims in eastern North Dakota.

Federal and state disaster workers will open information centers during the Stutsman County Fair, June 25-29, in Jamestown and during the Duck Race on July 4 in Grand Forks. The centers' staff will provide general information about disaster programs to the public. The centers will be staffed by representatives of the N.D. Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration (SBA), FEMA Community Relations, FEMA Human Services, FEMA congressional liaisons, FEMA Public Affairs and State/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

More than 14,000 North Dakota flood survivors have sought information from the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) that have been opened in 26 cities. Three DRCs remain open in Fargo, Grand Forks and Devils Lake.

To date, Public Assistance staff has determined that costs of eligible damages total nearly \$19.9 million for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

More than 34,800 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 22,599 have received nearly \$42.9

million in Disaster Housing assistance.

SBA has approved more than \$115.4 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 9,640 loan applications, 5,338 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 69 percent were to home owners for real estate and personal property losses and 31 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved nearly \$3.6 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,209.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>

N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>

N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>

N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director